

# The Alamogordo News.

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## RECLAMATION BY SMALLER TRACTS AND BETTER CULTIVATION

### Proof of This Principle in A. J. Messer's Ideal Place

### Demonstrates Also That Water is Available For Irrigation

By STANNARD HARTLEY

That the desert could be transformed into a veritable Garden of Eden, if water were only available, has been the saying for years of those who have dwelt in the desert. But it has remained for a few hardy spirits with the pioneering instinct to prove that the saying is true. One of these is A. J. Messer, who has proved that the desert is not a desert in the accepted use of that word, but is a garden in which flowers beautiful and fragrant abound, a garden in which everything both useful and decorative seemingly spring out of Mother Earth with little urging. But he has proved also that water, which has been the cry of the desert people since time immemorial, is here.

Mr. Messer has a tract of land, containing three lots, on Vermont avenue between Twelfth and Thirteenth streets. On this land, at an estimated cost of one hundred dollars, he has had dug a well fifty-one feet and six inches deep. At this depth the first stratum of water was struck which poured in so fast that the three men who were working were compelled to quit. This stratum stands six feet in the well and has not been lowered perceptibly even by continual pumping with a windmill which throws a steady stream through a two-inch pipe, filling the pipe to about two-thirds its capacity. This well as it is will irrigate the tract easily, but Mr. Messer is not satisfied and will drill down to the second stratum with which he expects to have a stand

of water from twelve to fourteen feet in depth. He will also install a two thousand gallon reservoir which will be used to irrigate the land during times when the wind is not blowing.

Mr. Messer has an orchard which was planted three years ago this spring and which produced a good crop of fruit the second year. This orchard is composed of several varieties of peaches, pears, apples, plums, prunes, apricots, quinces, and crab apples. He has several garden plots in which grows practically every variety of vegetable. He has also strawberry, raspberry, and dewberry patches. And on all sides of the house fragrant flowers greet the eye. Even an orange tree and a lemon tree on the side porch attract attention. These two trees are kept in the hot house in the winter.

Busily working among the flowers are the bees, for Mr. Messer has an apiary. In fact he has everything.

Down in the cellar there is a plentiful supply of canned goods of every description—pickles, preserves, and everything else that is good to eat.

Mr. and Mrs. Messer have an ideal home and the wolf is far from the door. High prices affect them not, for they grow all they eat and then have plenty to sell to those less fortunate.

And to those who are tired of city life, who have a little money and desire to live in comfort and peace the rest of their days, Alamogordo is the place to come.

## CLOSING EXERCISES OF HIGH SCHOOL FRIDAY

Largest Graduating Class in the  
History of School

### RECORD CROWD IN ATTENDANCE

Pretty Girls and Flowers Make  
Beautiful Picture

The First Baptist church, the largest auditorium in Alamogordo, would not begin to accommodate the people who attended, and desired to attend, the graduating exercises of the high school, which were held last Friday evening. Many people stood in crowded quarters from beginning to end of the exercises, which is ample evidence that the people here are intensely interested in their schools.

The rostrum and the entire end of the building were tastefully decorated in American flags, the pennants of many other schools, the class colors, green stuffs and flowers—flowers everywhere and of every kind and hue.

The invocation was offered by Rev. George H. Givan, on account of Rev. J. A. Brown's absence from the city. The program of seven essays and one oration were interspersed with musical numbers. The young lady graduates had not been accustomed to public speaking, but notwithstanding this handicap, they acquitted themselves with credit. The delivery of several of the essays was worthy of especial mention.

The class address was by Rev. J. A. Armstrong, the presentation of the diplomas by Rev. George H. Givan. Then came the presentation of the flowers offered by many admiring friends. The statement that one of the graduates received twenty-eight dozen roses will give some idea of the great number of bouquets presented. There appeared to be no favorites; there were flowers for all.

### Logwood School Notes

Mrs. Wright, the mother of Jasper Wright, was found Wednesday of last week, after having been lost for thirty-eight hours. She left home to visit a neighbor, and lost the trail. She was without food for thirty-eight hours, and was in a serious condition. All the neighbors for miles around turned out and assisted in the search.

A school picnic will be held on June 15, to which everybody in the county is invited. There will be plenty to eat and good speeches to hear.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Charles entertained a number of friends at a week-end house-party which ended with dinner last Sunday.

Mrs. Danley has returned to Alamogordo after a visit with the family of her son, Lon Danley.

Miss Sarah Virden of Alamogordo is visiting Mr. and Mrs. Lon Danley.

Miss Mae Pierce has returned from Three Rivers where she taught the public school last last session.

R. S. Connell of Tularosa was one of the visitors in Alamogordo the latter part of last week.

## HONOR AND REMEMBER THE VETERAN SOLDIERS

Who Gave Their Lives in Support  
of the Nation

### THEY SLEEP TILL REVEILLE SOUNDS

The Living Treat With Respect  
The Brave Deserve

Law and custom has established an annual holiday in honor and memory of the soldiers and sailors who went to the defense of our country. In this national roll of patriotism New Mexico occupies a conspicuous and proud position. She sent to the fore in that terrible struggle, the Civil War, a greater percentage of her sons than did any other commonwealth in the Union; furthermore, these soldiers were principally Spanish-Americans who had then recently sworn allegiance to the United States Government. In more recent years New Mexico again contributed of her manhood in the conflict with Spain. All New Mexicans should pause for a day in their busy lives and gratefully pay tribute to the brave men living and dead who offered their lives for the establishment of the peace and safety we now enjoy.

Now, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM C. McDONALD, Governor of the State of New Mexico, do hereby proclaim Thursday, May 30th 1912 as MEMORIAL DAY in the State of New Mexico, and recommend that the people on that day refrain from all labor so far as practicable; that they join the various patriotic societies in a proper observance of the day; that in the schools suitable exercises be held and the meaning of the day explained to the children so they may fully understand the sacred duty which causes men to lay down their lives in defense of the flag.

Done at the Executive Office this 22nd Day of May, A. D. 1912.

Witness my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Mexico.

WILLIAM C. McDONALD,  
Governor.

ANTONIO LUCERO,  
Secretary of State.

### Senior Class Dinner

Misses Treasure Hartman and Pauline Bemis entertained the other members of the class of 1912 at dinner Saturday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Morgan. The dining table and the dining room were beautifully decorated with flowers and the class colors.

The recital at the Presbyterian church last Monday evening afforded a rare treat to lovers of music. The attendance was not so large as was hoped for, and not nearly so large as the entertainment merited.

Miss Hazel Shelton and Herbert Shelton leave Friday for Cloudcroft, to spend the summer. Miss Hazel has a position in Jim Alexander's studio, and Herbert will be employed at Bailey's pharmacy.

Frank Woodside, third trick operator at the depot, has gone to his ranch near Three Rivers for a short stay.

## COUNTY COMMISSIONERS VIOLATE A LAW OF THE STATE

### County Financial Statement for 1911 is Not Published

### Law Says it "Shall" be Published, but Board Disregards Law

By GUTHRIE SMITH

The present campaign which has been inaugurated by THE NEWS is neither more nor less than a campaign of publicity, adopted and carried out for the purpose of letting the people know what their board of commissioners is doing. Some of the facts which have been set forth, do not reflect credit upon the commissioners, but the commissioners, and not THE NEWS, made the records which establish the facts. The readers of THE NEWS surely understand that this paper is confining its statements to facts; for the use of anything not in the record, or the use of anything not wholly true, would subject THE NEWS to suits for heavy damages for libel—and the suits would be forthcoming without delay. Moreover, THE NEWS has no desire to present anything other than the facts, for certainly the facts, uncolored, are bad enough.

In our editorial of May 16, we made the statement that the average citizen did not know a great deal about what the commissioners were doing. The policy of the present board of commissioners is not to give any more publicity than is absolutely necessary. If the members of this board are not carrying out a policy of secrecy, why do they disregard a mandatory law in order to keep from informing the plain citizen? Read carefully the following paragraph, which is offered in support of our accusation:

Section 675 of the Compiled Laws of 1897 reads as follows: "The boards of county commissioners of their respective counties at their regular meeting in January in each year, shall cause to be prepared a statement of the receipts and expenditures of such county during the year immediately preceding, setting forth the amount of money received from taxes, from licenses and all other sources; setting forth also the amount expended and the particular objects for which in each case every sum of money has been expended; and such statement signed by the chairman and clerk of the board shall be published for two weeks in some newspaper printed in the county, or if there be none, by posting in three public places in said county."

This statute is plain and simple. It is so plain that an intelligent child twelve years of age could not misunderstand it. Please note that the statute does not leave the matter to the discretion of the commissioners. It says that "the commissioners SHALL cause to be prepared," and that "such statement SHALL be published for two weeks. It does not say that "the commissioners may, if they so desire;" or "the commissioners may, if they think the tax payers would be interested sufficiently to justify the cost of publication."

That financial statement, which should have been prepared at the regular meeting in January, and published immediately thereafter, has not yet been published. The statement was presented at the meeting held April 9, Commissioners Sutherland and Sanders in attendance. The following is the exact record relating to the statement: "Annual report showing the financial condition of Otero County for the year ending December 31, 1911, presented by the County Clerk, and same was approved." Do you find any order for publication in the official record which has been quoted? Unofficially, the statement and the statute relating thereto, were discussed, and the decision was, notwithstanding the law, not to publish the statement. It was said that the statement would not interest the tax payers, and that it would cost money to publish the statement. Note the consistency of the commissioners' tender solicitude on behalf of the tax payers: Perfectly able and willing to spend \$250.00 more than necessary to publish the delinquent tax list, yet not able or willing to spend a few dollars to let the people know what is being done with the people's money. The following paragraph is perfectly plain, and is self-explanatory. The people will be able to decide for themselves whether the statute is applicable in this case, and whether or not any penalty ought to be exacted:

Section 676 of the Compiled Laws of 1897 reads as follows: "If any one of the commissioners shall refuse or neglect to perform any of the duties which are or shall be required by law of him as a member of the board of county commissioners without any just cause therefor, he shall for each offense be fined in a sum not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than one hundred dollars on conviction in the district court."

### Presbyterian Church Services

Our 11 a. m., and 8 p. m., themes, June 2, are respectively, "Ripening for Judgment," and "Sowing Seeds of Weal or Woe." Welcome to all not worshipping elsewhere.

J. A. ARMSTRONG.

Mrs. A. P. Jackson and Miss Ella Jackson returned Monday night from El Paso, and will spend the summer in Alamogordo and Cloudcroft.

The Big Stick smashed all opposition in the presidential primaries, which were held Tuesday in New Jersey. Col. Roosevelt gets the solid New Jersey delegation. Woodrow Wilson will have 24 of the total of 28 delegates.

Mrs. J. R. Gilbert left Monday morning for the Gilbert ranch near Mountain Park, to spend the summer. Miss Jonnie Murphy and little Beth Gilbert left Wednesday morning.

### Trying to Please All

The following story is told illustrating a newspaper that tries to be on all sides of a question at the same time:

Speaking of the difficulty newspapers experience in pleasing all their patrons Tom Mason, editor of Life, told this one in his talk to Kansas editors at Lawrence. A boy had been given a chameleon, of which he was very fond. His father, returning home after an absence of a couple of days, asked about the pet. "It's gone," replied the boy. "Gone where?" continued the father. "Oh, he is all in, down and out," said the boy. His father being unable to understand demanded an explanation. "Well, father, I did a little experimenting. I put it on red and it turned red. I put it on blue and it turned blue. I put it on yellow and it turned yellow, but when I put it on plaid it burst itself trying to be satisfactory.—Roswell Record.

Mrs. R. S. Tipton and children left Wednesday morning for the Tipton ranch in James canon, where they will spend the summer.

Dr. C. A. Wells has been very ill for several days. As this is written, there has been little or no change for the better.

### More Visitors From Mexico

Mrs. W. R. Wisbrun and children, of Chihuahua, arrived Tuesday afternoon and will remain in Alamogordo until conditions in Mexico are nearer settled. Mr. Wisbrun, who is the proprietor of a clothing manufactory, is expected to arrive today from St. Joseph, Mo. Antonio Chacon, Mrs. Wisbrun's brother, accompanied the party here, and returned Wednesday to his home. The Wisbruns have rented the Abbott residence.

### An Absent Minded Professor

A very absent minded professor was busily engaged in solving a scientific problem when the nurse hastily opened the library door and announced a great family event.

"The little stranger has arrived, Professor."

"Eh?" said the professor.

"It is a little boy," said the nurse.

"Little boy, little boy," mused the professor. "Well, ask him what he wants."—June Woman's Home Companion.

A memorial service was held Sunday morning at the Presbyterian church, Rev. J. A. Armstrong delivering the discourse. The veterans say that the sermon was eloquent and touching.